

EL MORRO

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Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico

December 2005

Ever vigilant

'Peace on Earth' may be a dream far off.

We're not there yet.

But rest assured you will enjoy the holidays in peace because a lone soldier keeps a watchful eye on the terrain surrounding Namia village in Iraq, away from home and from his loved ones.

This Holiday Season, think of him and of all the other men and women now serving the nation with pride.

Staff Sgt. Emanuel Walls, from 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, keeps an eye on the terrain surrounding Namla village, Iraq, while his platoon monitors a traffic control point.

FROM THE COMMANDER:

The gift of
security

On behalf the Headquarters and staff of the United States Army Garrison and Fort Buchanan I wish each and every one Feliz Navidad, Feliz Año Nuevo and Feliz Dia de Los Tres Reyes Magos.

This is the fifth Christmas and Holiday season we have traveled together while our nation is at war. Those of us here at Fort Buchanan must remember, think about and pray for those soldiers deployed to the theater of combat. They have given us the gift of security. We must remember, think about and pray for their families. They have given us the gift of their most loved family members who provide that security. Be on the alert for those isolated and without human connection and offer it this season. This is the time of year when isolation and loneliness become worse and unbearable.

As we look forward to the coming new year of 2006 we must be grateful our installation remains for the future. We must plan to use this precious resource well. We look forward to the time when the moratorium is no longer hanging as an impediment to the future.

Spend as much time with your family as possible during this season. An extra hug, a bedtime story or a quiet dinner alone with loved ones and friends are memories that last a lifetime and will sustain you

when called upon to sacrifice during the lonely times of the next deployment.

As you hear the refrains of "peace on earth, good will toward men" do not think them trite or quaint, or without meaning. Those sentiments are the intent of our nation and our Army. Soldiers hate war, violence and fighting more than anyone – it is all too real to them. It is the courage, dedication and professionalism of America's Soldiers that will lead the world to a brighter, more peaceful future.

The tree of hope, the Ceiba tree at the Welcome Center, now is adorned with fewer yellow banners compared to 2004. That means more of our warfighters are home. That is good. Stop and look. Stop and reflect. Stop and say a prayer for those who remain away.

May God bless you during this season of joy, may He protect our Soldiers in harm's way, and may He always bless the United States of America and her people.

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR:

A lone
Soldier

I had the chance to preview the cover photo in this issue of EL MORRO. That lone NCO patrolling the vast area surrounding an Iraqi village was an inspiration to me and should be to all our NCOs.

Currently, the Army's NCO force stands at almost 184,400 Soldiers. Add to that the more than 229,300 enlisted personnel and you have a sizable force of proud and ready warriors to support an officer and warrant officer corps of a little over 80,000. Clearly, the Army's structure rests on a solid foundation of dedicated NCO and enlisted personnel.

Keep that as a thought as you look at this issue's cover.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the Fort Buchanan community, their families and the Soldiers for the many contributions given to our Nation and Fort Buchanan.

It's hard for me as the CSM of Fort Buchanan

to say Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas or even Happy New Year. It's hard because I think about my fellow soldiers that are at WAR. However my parents, my family, my faith and specially life, have taught me the meaning of the word LOVE.

Christmas is all about Love and new life. So let us all love each other and pray for our son, daughter, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, uncle, aunt, sister, and brother that are presently at War so they can return safely to their home and loved ones.

Let us never forget those that never returned, our fallen Comrades that died to make our life and the world a better place to live. God bless everyone and remember to love each other.

EL MORRO

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Over \$25 K says 'yes, we care'

Exceeding last year's contribution, the Fort Buchanan community enthusiastically poured \$25,720.12 into the coffers of the 2005 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The contributions will help thousands of local and international charitable organizations.

"I prayed for a miracle and it happened," said Campaign Coordinator Cecille Washington. "Your compassion and generosity made this campaign a success. The installation exceeded last year's contribution by 7%. The participation rate also increased to 24%. The greatest benefit has been the personal satisfaction we

feel knowing we are helping the less fortunate."

CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workforce on behalf of charitable organizations. It has its roots in the many charitable campaigns of the early 60s. Seeing the need to bring the diversity of fundraising efforts under one umbrella, the CFC was created -- one campaign, once a year. Last year, federal employees raised more than \$256 million for charitable causes.

The local CFC benefits over 130 charitable organizations around the island.

Post and Commonwealth Fire departments sign mutual support agreement

by Carmen Rodríguez
Puerto Rico Fire Service

In a historic first, Puerto Rico Fire Services Chief Mr. Germán Ocasio Morales and Fort Buchanan's Fire Department Chief, Mr. Raymond Johnson, signed Oct. 3 a mutual support agreement by which both organizations concur in providing fire prevention and firefighting services within the jurisdiction of both Buchanan and the surrounding areas.

Should the assistance be needed, post firefighting equipment and personnel could be dispatched to provide support to local area firemen. By the same token, off-post firefighters would provide support as required on post.

The agreement was signed at the *Cuerpo de Bomberos de Puerto Rico* headquarters in Doncella Street, Punta las Marias, San Juan.

While such mutual support existed previously on an informal, good-will basis, this is the first time that the accord is signed officially.

As part of the new working relationship, Buchanan Fire Captain Luis Roig represented Fort Buchanan recently at the inauguration by Governor Acevedo of a new fire station in Trujillo Alto. His father, also Capt. Luis Roig, is District Chief for the Río Piedras district.

Photos by Vidal Castro, PR Fire Department



Above: Fort Buchanan Fire Department Chief Raymond Johnson, left, with Commonwealth Fire Department Chief Germán Ocasio sign the agreement. Below: Buchanan Fire Captain Luis Roig, fourth from left, represented the Post at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Capt. Roig Senior is to his right.



Buchanan's Paper Clips store, unique on the island.

By Melissa Zayas
El Morro Staff

Servicing Fort Buchanan's office supplies needs for four years now, "Paper Clips" is a unique store. The only one in Puerto Rico after the closure of their

facility at the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Paper Clips has the mission of providing opportunities for persons who are blind or visually impaired and in need of training, employment and services.

Store Manager Naomi Hernández ensures the services are fast, complete and efficient. She is assisted by Jorge Omar, whose blindness does not prevent him from being a model employee. "Jorge has been with us for two and a half years. He has a college degree and is great with computers," Hernández said.

The initiative for the stores dates

Paper Clips employee Jorge Omar.
Photo by Melissa Zayas



back to 1936, when the Winston-Salem Company started a two-room workshop at their plant in North Carolina with six blind workers manufacturing mattresses, brooms and chairs.

"Sight may be lacking,
but vision is unlimited."

Paper Clips motto

serves as an outlet for office products manufactured by NIB associates.

By harnessing the demand and purchasing power of the federal government, NIB and its associated agencies supply federal markets with a selection of more than 3,000 quality products and services under the trade name SKIL-

The group kept growing to become National Industries for the Blind (NIB). Paper Clips

CRAFT®— manufactured and provided by people who are blind at more than 80 associated agencies, across the nation. No minor accomplishment, NIB and associated agencies execute the following activities:

Employ almost 5,000 people who are blind per year

Pay over 60 million dollars per year in wages and benefits for full- and part-time employees

Offer rehabilitative services to about 125,000 children and adults

Operate in over 100 base supply centers

Deliver millions of dollars worth of products and services to federal, state and commercial markets per year.

"(NIB) is a family," Hernández said. "The company has offered me many opportunities. I feel proud from the bottom of my heart."

AAM for Airport Liaison Coordinator

by María Morales
Chief, Admin Support Svcs.

On November 22, 2005, the Fort Buchanan Installation Commander, Colonel Stephen M. Ackman, presented the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Outstanding Civilian Service to Mr. Jesus M. Ozores. He is presently serving as the Airport Liaison Coordinator for the installation at the San Juan International Airport.

The mission of the Fort Buchanan Airport Liaison Office is to serve as the command's primary point of contact at the San Juan International Airport.

The Airport Liaison Office coordinates, organizes and executes all security processing requirements at the airport for the movement of soldiers, weapons and sensitive items. This includes coordination for the unprecedented military funeral honors ceremony held at the airport in honor of fallen service members.

Airport Liaison provides assistance to the Casualty Branch and Mortuary Affairs Team with the transfer and arrival of human remains of DOD personnel to Puerto Rico for proper military burial by coordinating the required clearances from airport official agencies. Airport Liaison in coordination with funeral home personnel also inspects the remains upon arrival to Puerto Rico and signs

all required documentation related to the shipment and turns the human remains to military officials for proper military ceremonies and burial.

Assistance is also provided at the airport site with the travel arrangements of deceased service members' immediate family members arriving Puerto Rico for attendance to the military funeral ceremonies.

It must be noted that Puerto Rico is the only United States territory in which a Funeral Military Honors Ceremony is held at a civilian airport. The only other place that this type of ceremony is held at an airport site is at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

"This is by far the most challenging element of my job due to the sensitive and emotional nature of the solemn ceremonies, but it is the proper way to render tribute to those that paid the ultimate sacrifice for the nation", Mr. Ozores explained.

Mr. Ozores commented that there are a lot of people and agencies that also deserves credit for his award recognition. "I am only the coordinator of the airport related events, just doing my job, but this a complete team effort that involves the Fort Buchanan Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Office, Senior Military Leaders, Officers, Noncommissioned Officers and

Enlisted personnel, airline personnel, official government agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Agency, the Puerto Rico Ports Authority, the Transportation Security Agency, the Puerto Rico Police Department, Airport Internal Security, Airport Rescue Division and the Airport Medical Station.



Ozores coordinates the reception of fallen hero remains at the San Juan International airport.

The word TEAM is nothing other than an acronym that spells T-ogether, E-verybody, A-chieve, M-ore. We at Fort Buchanan play for the same team (US Army) and the same coach (The Commander). People will be surprised of the things that can get accomplished if everyone works as a team, pulling the rope in the same direction, towards the same goals. When you work with professionals, things get done a lot easier".

Mr. Ozores is a US Army former Senior Noncommissioned Officer of over 20 years of military active duty service. He is a highly decorated US Army Veteran who holds an Associate Degree from Central Texas College (With Honors) and a Bachelors of Science Degree from the Southern New Hampshire University with specialization in Business Administration and Human Resources. He is presently enrolled in the University of Phoenix Masters Graduate Degree Program with specialization in Global Management. His personal motto is "Do always the best you can at whatever you do".



Ozores receiving the award from Col. Ackman



AROUND THE FORT

By Melissa Zayas

Different uniform, same security

Department of the Army Civilian Police are enforcing the law in Fort Buchanan wearing a blue uniform, but that doesn't mean that they are not doing the same job as their MP counterparts. Their mission is to ensure all law enforcement and provide support to all the installation, also the execution of mobilization missions, police desk operations, traffic accidents operations, patrol operations, vehicle registration and the Military working dogs K-9, who will join the Directorate of Emergencies in 2007.

They have been on post since 1996. Their first civilian group started with 22 policemen. Today a military-to-civilian conversion program has allowed for 42 additional civilian positions. Currently there are 67 civilian police men. Four females are part of the group.

Most of these policemen also serve as Reserve Component Soldiers -- 83% in the National Guard. Their job is the same as the military police men, they have the same authority. "I feel good by enforcing the law on post", said Supervisor Alfredo Aponte, traffic accident investigator. They offer a professional service to the community. "They are the best police forces", said Deputy provost Marshal Vicente Gonzalez. Many people think that the rules on post are stricter than outside of post, but they follow the same transit laws of Puerto Rico. "I feel respected; I have no doubt about that", said Javier F. Burgos, traffic accident investigator.

The Directorate of Emergency Services, previously known as the Provost Marshal Office, combines the Police men, fire fighters and medical emergency personnel.

NASA conference at Antilles High

On November 18, 2005, Antilles High School held a conference with Engineer Francisco Izquierdo, who has been working for NASA 26 years at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Izquierdo is the Manager of Special Projects in NASA. Throughout the conference he gave out statistics such as the weight of the vehicle that is 4.5 million pounds and explained each and every part of the shuttle. The conference for AHS students was coordinated by Mr. Robles and Mr. Sosa.

DOIM-VI employee now with Golden Knights



Luis Deya, a former employee at the Visual Information Section moved to North Carolina to work at Fort Bragg with the Golden Knights, documenting the USAPT (United States Army Parachute Team) in all activities and conferences. Deya is performing as an aerial videographer, editor, photographer and media relations.

DPW wins 'best decorated office' competition

By Melissa Zayas
El Morro Staff

The Department of Public Works (DPW) was the overall winner in this year's Best Decorated Office competition. The Command group initiative sought to recognize the installation's offices for their efforts in beautifying their work spaces according to the spirit of the season.

The visit of the Commander and the judging team to each of the offices was quickly turned into a *parranda*, complete with impromptu violin concerts by the Commander and Spc. Rosado.

Other departments and offices received special recognitions. "Best Holiday Spirit" was reflected in the decorations at the **Rodríguez Army Health Clinic**. The Best Nativity Scene was set up by **Army**

Community Service. The Most Beautiful Tree category was won by **El Caney Lodge**.

In the Most Original Tree category, competition was tough. Judges declared a tie between the **DOIM, DES Police Station** and **DOL Transportation**.

The Directorate of Lo-

gistics took the Most Typical Decoration award, while **Headquarters and Headquarters Company** earned the Decoration with Recycled Items prize. Finally, in the Best Three Kings category, **DHR/ACAP/Casualty** shared the honors.

Congratulations!



Holiday decorations ran the gamut from the traditional Christmas tree to various versions of Santa. The judges tour turned into a *parranda* complete with a non-traditional violin in the *trulla*.



Best holiday decorations awards in housing

Fort Buchanan's housing areas were also examined by a panel of judges to select the best decorations. On December 16, between 6 and 7:30 p.m., the judges visited the areas.

It was a difficult task, as many quarters and their lawns had been beautifully decorated. The final selection

was announced December 19.

The winners were:

The Sgt. 1st Class Castellano family, 1215 Coconut Grove;

The Capt. Rivera family, 804 Las Colinas;

The Sgt. Sánchez family, 1274-A Coquí Gardens.

The awards were presented by Col Ackman

at a ceremony dec. 19 in the Fort Buchanan Conference Room.

Each of the winners received a \$50 gift card courtesy of AAFES, as well as various MWR gift certificates.

In total, 28 quarters were inspected.

Congratulations!!

Man on the Street

Photos, interviews by Melissa Zayas

How are you planning to celebrate *Navidades* this year?



Alicia Ramos, MWR Fitness Center recreation assistant: "Share with family the traditions, food and lights."



Arturo Homs, Commissary customer: "For me, the holidays mean the birth of Jesus and sharing with loved ones."



Federico Lavarini, MWR Fitness center Assistant: "It is a privilege for me to be in Puerto Rico with the warm climate. I plan to celebrate this Christmas in a really good way because I just moved to a bigger and more comfortable place."



Rafael Martínez, Commissary bagger: "It is the time when everyone unites, a day of the year where no one fights."



Hilario Vázquez, Commissary baggers assistant supervisor: "Joy, happiness, love because every year there is a family reunion to share the beauty of the season."



José Luis Vega, Commissary employee: "Working, working, working."

Headed by 65th RRC Commander

PR team leads and helps execute the Florida Blue Roof Mission

The fact they all work for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District has a dynamic group of Puerto Ricans working very closely and helping in the Hurricane Wilma recovery effort in various storm ravaged areas in Florida.

Engineer Jose Rosado, Chief Antilles Construction Office heads the South Florida Resident Office and is responsible for the temporary Blue Roof mission in the Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe (the cays) Counties.

Operation Blue Roof mission is assigned by FEMA to the USACE to provide a temporary remedy for roofs that sustained hurricane damage. Rosado is also the Commander of the US Army 65th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico with rank of Brigadier General.

Rosado arrived in Miami on

October 28. and has four Team Leaders working with him and they are all "boricuas". Ivan Acosta is in charge of Miami-Dade South, Enrique Godinez from San Juan is responsible for Miami-Dade North, John Conway from Ponce is in charge of work in Broward County and Eng. Rene Perez leads the work in Monroe County and the cays.

Also in the Miami team is Eng. Cynthia Perez from Bayamon, in charge of the collection centers for Right of Entry (ROE's) and the Phone Bank to answer public inquiries.

The youngest engineer in the team is Omayra Valencia from Arecibo who joined the Corps in San Juan 4 years ago and is in Florida working in the Contract Administration phase. Eng. Edil Rosas is also assigned to this mission.

Two husband-wife teams of boricuas work in the Miami

Office: Ivan and Noemi Acosta and Engineers Rene and Cynthia Perez.

The involvement of Puerto Ricans extended to the Hurricane Wilma Recovery Headquarters in West Palm Beach where Engs. Pedro Acosta and Alberto Berrios lead the Temporary Roof mission coordination. Also in West Palm Beach was Elsa Jimenez from the Antilles Public Affairs Office working in a similar role in Florida to reach the Spanish speaking communities.

Other "boricuas" assisting with the Corps recovery mission are Eng. Manuel Perez and Carlos Rivera from San German who works in Logistics. The North Florida Resident office located in Clewiston serving 10 counties is headed by Eng. Edwin Cuebas from Guaynabo. Cuebas has 2 boricuas helping him: Eng Ricardo Vazquez as Team



Group of Puerto Ricans who work for the US Army Corps of Engineers working in the temporary Blue Roof mission in Miami gather for a group photo; (L-R) Seated: Eng. Cynthia Pérez, Noemi Acosta and Eng. Omayra Valencia. Standing: Enrique Godinez, John Conway, Eng. Rene Pérez, Iván Acosta, Eng. Edil Rosas and Eng. José Rosado.

Leader and Diana Ramos as Administrative Assistant.

The boricuas are working hard and long hours. They all have experience in previous recovery missions and when asked they emphasize the sat-

isfaction of doing their share to help persons in need. They all look forward to celebrating Christmas at home with their families in Puerto Rico or in Jacksonville where some live and work with the Corps.

VIRUSES CAUSE... TERMINAL ILLNESS

A computer virus affects your PC system in much the same way as a virus affects your body. Computer viruses can attack in many ways and are a favorite tool of hackers. These are just some of the methods used to crash a system:

- * Viruses can be planted in graphics that most people use
- * They can be attached to email messages or be the email message itself
- * They can be stored in disks

WAYS TO AVOID A VIRUS:

- * Have appropriate anti-virus software installed on your PC
- * Don't open emails that you do not recognize
- * Don't download files from the Internet or elsewhere unless properly scanned

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT VIRUS INFECTION!

AWARENESS IS THE KEY TO SECURITY

Logos: Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, and a circular logo with 'DIAOLMM' and 'DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT'.

Tricare Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) applies here

The TRDP, first authorized by Congress in 1997, continues today to offer one of the few affordable, comprehensive dental benefit programs available to the nation's Uniformed Services retirees, as well as to retirees of the Reserve and Guard. The TRDP is a nationwide, combined fee-for-service/ preferred provider program that offers enrollees access to any licensed dentist in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Enrollees may seek care from any licensed dentist, with optimal benefits available when choosing a participating Delta Dental PPO or Delta Dental Select dentist in over 90,000 locations nationwide.

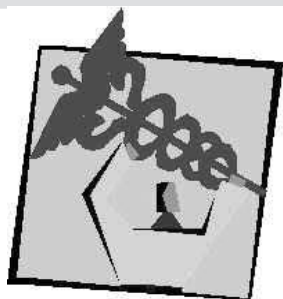
The dental program continues to offer coverage for diagnostic and preventive services, basic restorative services, periodontics, endodontics, oral surgery, dental emergencies and a separate dental accident benefit with no waiting period.

Eligibility for the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program extends to all retirees of the Reserve and Guard and their family members, including those in the "gray area" who are entitled to retired pay but will not begin receiving it until age 60. Although eligibility for this group has been

in effect since the TRDP first began in 1998, many retired Reserve and Guard members, and even more "gray area" retirees, still do not realize they are eligible. It is important to note that as with all new retirees, the 120-day period during which a "gray area" retired member can enroll in the TRDP to qualify for the 12-month waiting period waiver begins with his/her retirement effective date, not the date he/she reaches age 60.

The TRDP carries a \$50 per person annual deductible. The program also includes a family deductible cap of \$150 and an annual maximum amount of \$1,200, against which preventive and diagnostic services are not counted. In addition to the annual maximum, the TRDP also has a separate dental accident annual maximum of \$1,000 and a lifetime orthodontic maximum of \$1,200.

Eligible retirees and their family members can find answers to their questions about the program as well as enroll using Delta Dental's dedicated TRDP web site at www.trdp.org or by calling (888) 838-8737.



Military health system enters new era

The Department of Defense achieved a major milestone with the launch of AHLTA, its global electronic health record system, at a ceremony hosted by Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and at-

tended by Michael O. Leavitt, secretary of health and human services, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda Nov. 21.

AHLTA is the largest, most significant electronic health record system of its kind with the potential to serve more than nine million servicemembers, retirees and their families worldwide. When fully implemented,

about 60,000 military health-care professionals at DoD medical facilities in the United States, and 11 other countries will use this electronic health record system.

"Beneficiaries' health records will be available around the clock and around the world, available to health-care providers, yet protected from loss and unauthorized access," said Winkenwerder. "Our electronic health record has matured to a point that its size and complexity are unrivaled. Most importantly, this new system was built in partnership with America's leading information technology companies."

Today, many thousands of

military medical providers are using the system, and nearly 300,000 outpatient visits are captured digitally every week.

Full deployment of the system in DoD's 800 clinics and 70 hospitals will be complete by December 2006.

"With the roll-out of AHLTA, the Department of Defense has made a great step toward achieving President Bush's goal of making electronic health records available to a majority of Americans within 10 years," said Leavitt. "The lessons we learn from an initiative of this geographic scope and patient base will prove invaluable for future private and government health systems."

The longer term vision, expected to be achieved in the next two to three years, is a continuously updated digital medical record from the point of injury or care on the battlefield to military clinics and hospitals in the United States, all completely transferable electronically to the Veterans Health Administration.

A massive training program for AHLTA is currently underway in DoD's medical community to ensure all who have access to the system are properly trained in usage and health record security.

More information on AHLTA can be found on their Web site at <http://www.ha.osd.mil/AHLTA>.

New armored protection system in the works for troops in Iraq

Teledyne Brown Engineering (TBE) has built and successfully tested a new form of armored protection to safeguard U.S. troops in Iraq and other deployments where armored protection is needed.

The Multipurpose Troop Transport Carrier System (MTTCS) is a unique solution that provides protection to troops in convoys, contains a weapons system platform and can be dismounted and reconfigured on the ground to provide fixed-position armor protection.

"The Army doesn't have anything that combines the dual functionality of

the MTTCS with the modular design that makes the multiple configurations and roles possible," said Marty Runkle, Vice president, TBE Systems Group. "The MTTCS is the only modular solution that adds this level of troop protection on any flatbed transport truck in the Army's inventory."

The MTTCS's modular design allows it to be mounted on a 2 1/2, 5 or 7-ton truck with a passenger capacity between four to 16 soldiers. The MTTCS provides maximum protection against fragments from most IEDs and small arms fire up to 7.62-mm AP, contains

an integrated roll cage and crew seating with safety harnesses to protect troops in the event of a roll over, features an air conditioner and provides two gun mounts and 14 gun ports.

When dismounted from the truck, the MTTCS can be reconfigured on the ground and used for protection at checkpoints, as a hospital, storage facility or tactical operation center.

The original idea for the system came from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). "They brought us their concept and we engineered a functional, producible design

and built a prototype unit that immediately was placed into an operational evaluation program," said Runkle.

The MTTCS has undergone rigorous testing from the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (USATEC) at Aberdeen Proving Grounds and spent two months being evaluated by the Army's Rapid Equipping Force Program in Iraq.

Teledyne Brown plans to build the MTTCS at its 110,000 square foot manufacturing facility at its headquarters on Sparkman Dr.

Traumatic Injury Protection Now Available for Soldiers

The U.S. Army received the first 144 claims for the Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (TSGLI) for Soldiers who incurred a traumatic injury in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). This new traumatic injury protection available under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) plan provides financial assistance to eligible Soldiers and their families, which is vital during their extensive recovery and rehabilitation process.

"Our Nation's commitment to our Soldiers is evidenced by this program. TSGLI is another benefit which assists our fallen warriors and their families

so they can focus on recovery, further exemplifying the Warrior Ethos, "Never leave a fallen comrade," said Col. Mary Carstensen, Director of U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program and TSGLI.

Administered by the Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) on behalf of the Army, the mission of TSGLI is to ensure eligible Soldiers receive the monetary payments they are entitled to while providing them with the necessary information and assistance to complete and submit their TSGLI claims.

TSGLI provides retroactive payments for Soldiers who have suffered a qualifying loss due to a traumatic injury while serving in theater during Opera-



The Multi Troop Transport Carrier System - MTTCS is a unique armor solution that mounts on the Army's standard trucks but can also be dismounted and used for protection on the ground.

Fort Buchanan welcomed the holiday season December 2 with music, booths, fun for the kids, a parade and the traditional Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Photos by Vicente Vélez

The Command wishes you a

¡Feliz Navidad!



*More holiday
festivities photos
on back page*







Magistrate Court: everything you wanted to know but weren't sure whom to ask

By CPT Jonathan Persons
Installation Legal Office

What is Magistrate Court?

Magistrate court is the federal civilian court that handles misdemeanor charges arising from alleged misconduct occurring on federal property such as Fort Buchanan, the Caribbean National Forest ("El Yunque") and the Veteran Affairs Medical Center. Magistrate court has jurisdiction to hear cases against any person while on federal property – including all military personnel and their dependent family members.

What types of cases are heard in Magistrate's Court?

Ordinary traffic citations issued by the Provost Marshal Office (either by Military Police or the Department of the Army Civilian Police) are the largest portion of the court's caseload. Other types of cases seen in magistrate court can include: shoplifting, carrying weapons on post, drug cases, drunk driving offenses, assault and violations of installation rules.

Can I pay the amount indicated and avoid appearing in court?

As with local traffic court, some of-

fenses may be prepaid while others require a mandatory court appearance. If the violation requires a mandatory court appearance, you will receive a notice in the mail informing you of the date and time (usually within 90 days of the offense) you must appear in court. If the ticket does not require a mandatory court appearance, you will have a few days to prepay the ticket. Tickets can be paid either by mail, using the envelope included with the ticket, or in person at the Installation Legal Office, Building 204. If payment is not received within fourteen (14) days, you will be notified of your court date by mail. You will receive a *Notice to Appear* usually within 4 to 8 weeks from issuance of the ticket. If you wish to prepay the ticket after receiving that notice, you may do so in person on the date of your hearing.

Why does the traffic ticket I received include a \$25 processing fee?

Effective July 1, 2005, every citation issued on Fort Buchanan that either carries a fine or requires a court appearance includes a \$25 processing fee. This also applies to other federal agencies such as the Veterans' Hospital, El Yunque and other parks and facilities. It affects parking tickets, shoplifting cases and any other violations of federal law.

This additional fee is authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, signed into law by the President in December 2004. The Act included a provision that authorized the Judicial Conference of the United States to prescribe and collect the \$25 fee to offset the cost of processing cases. It will be charged to defendants for each violation notice issued.

This fee is in addition to the regular fine, and will be assessed on every ticket issued. For instance, the fine for failing to stop at a stop sign is currently \$30. With the addition of this new processing fee, the cost of running a stop sign is now \$55.

The fee is not waivable. It will be assessed regardless of whether you pay the ticket by mail or appear in court.

Where does the money go when I pay a ticket?

While the \$25 processing fee is used to offset court costs, the remainder of the funds collected from the payment of petty offense cases are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund.

This fund was established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 and is a major funding source for victim services throughout the country. For more information about the Crime Victims Fund and how the funds are disbursed, visit the Office for Victims of Crime

Website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>.

Do I have the right to appear in court?

As with other civilian courts, you always have the right to appear in court to contest a ticket. Serious charges that may lead to suspension of your driving privileges, or which carry the possibility of jail time, will usually require a mandatory court appearance (prepayment of the ticket is not allowed). You may appear on your own or you may appear with a civilian attorney.

What happens if you fail to pay or appear in court?

You must pay the traffic ticket before the court date or appear in court. Failure to pay and/or failure to appear could result in issuance of a bench warrant for your arrest and suspension of your driving privileges.

If you absolutely cannot afford to pay the ticket, contact the court before the deadline and try to work out some arrangements.

If you have questions concerning Federal Magistrate Court, contact the Fort Buchanan Installation Legal Office at (787) 707-5146.

PROTECTION ... from page 7

tions Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom between Oct. 7, 2001, and Dec. 1, 2005. Current coverage under SGLI is not required for retroactive entitlements.

After Dec. 1, to receive coverage under TSGLI, Soldiers are required to have coverage under SGLI. After Dec. 1, TSGLI coverage will be automatic for all Soldiers who

have SGLI coverage.

If a Soldier is unable to complete a claim due to incapacitation or death, family members with an appropriate Power of Attorney or letter of guardianship may apply for TSGLI benefits on behalf of a Soldier. Family members of a deceased Soldier who survived for 7 days after incurring a traumatic injury and qualifying loss may also apply.

TSGLI covers a range of

traumatic injuries, including, but not limited to:

- Total and permanent loss of sight in one or both eyes;
- Loss of hand or foot by severance at or above the wrist or ankle;
- Total and permanent loss of hearing in one or both ears;
- Loss of thumb and index finger of the same hand by severance at or above the metacarpophalangeal joints;
- Quadriplegia, paraplegia,

or hemiplegia;

- 3rd degree or worse burns covering 30 percent of the body or 30 percent of the face; and
- Coma or the inability to carry out two of the six activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury.

Additional information on the traumatic injury protection benefit, as well as a listing on qualifying injuries, can be obtained by calling 1-800-

237-1336. Media are encouraged to contact Army Human Resources Command (HRC) Public Affairs Office at 703-325-9904. Visit the web site at www.aw2.army.mil/TSGLI for application and contact information.

Claims can be faxed to 1-866-275-0684 or mailed to: Department of the U.S. Army Traumatic SGLI (TSGLI) 200 Stovall Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0470

Supporting 42nd Infantry Division MPs

PR National Guardsmen help make Iraqi streets safer

Story and photos by
Spc. Adam Phelps
22nd Mobile PA Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, Tikrit, Iraq -- Task Force Liberty Soldiers work to make Iraq's streets a safer place by getting the criminals and terrorists off the streets. Puerto Rico National Guard Soldiers are part of the effort.

Military police from the 42nd Infantry Division also conduct cordon and searches and transport prisoners between detention facilities in the Task Force Liberty area of operation.

"Getting these guys off the streets does a lot for American forces over here and the Iraqi people feel safer that these guys aren't out planting improvised explosive devices or shooting AK-47s," said Spc. James McGurn, a gunner, 42nd Military Police Company.

Putting criminals in custody helps protect more than the Coalition Forces, said the task force provost marshal.

"Were not just making it

safer for the Soldiers, were making it safer for Iraq," said Lt. Col Joseph Ricchiazzi, 42nd ID provost marshal and senior law enforcement advisor to the Task Force Liberty



Spc. Amado Carrasquillo checks detainees' identifications before they can move on to be transported.

commander. "When a terrorist pulls a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in the middle of a market they don't hurt a U.S. Soldier, their hurting Iraqis. Were making Iraqis feel safer. The Iraqi people

want to see law enforcement working here. They understand law enforcement and how important it is to society."

Once suspected bad guys have been caught the Soldiers of the 42nd MP Company must still protect them while they are under Coalition control.

"Once they're in our custody it's our job to protect them," said McGurn.

"They can't protect themselves against the IEDs or small arms fire, so it's our job to get them from the detention facility to Abu Ghraib."

The MPs must also make sure the detainees are treated correctly while they are under their control, Ricchiazzi said.

"We have a duty and responsibility to make sure all people detained by U.S. and Coalition forces are treated humanely and with dignity and respect," said the, Buffalo, N.Y., native. "By taking them down to Abu Ghraib

in humane fashion and timely method we show that we are committed to taking care of them."

Boricua replacements

Catching suspected terrorists and transporting them is only a part of the job the 42nd MPs are doing. They are also training replacements to do their job. Puerto Rico National Guard Soldiers from the 162nd Field Artillery Battalion based in Hato Rey and serving with the 918th MP have arrived to provide support.

"We started out slow but day by day we are learning more and becoming prepared to take 42nd IDs place," said Sgt. Julio Tores, from San Juan.

"The Puerto Rican



Staff Sgt. Ferdinand Diaz zip ties a prisoners hands preparing him to be transported.

unit is coming on strong," Ricchiazzi said. "They put the unit together from pieces of other units but they are coming along. They are a very good unit; the longer they're here the better they're getting."

Even though the 42nd ID military police are from several states they still work together and do their best, Ricchiazzi said. "They are all performing

well, and representing their states very well and I'm very proud of how they're doing."

One of the biggest rewards the MPs are getting is seeing the fruits of their labor.

"A lot of people out here don't see what Soldiers do," McGurn said. "We see the results of the work we do and feel we are making a difference here."



Sgt. Jose Castro sifts through one of the Iraqi prisoners belongings looking for evidence.



Spc. Jose Cintron searches a detainee before allowing them to be transported to another detention facility

Operation Able Warrior sweeps through neighborhoods

Sgt David Bill
48th Brigade PAO

BAGHDAD — In the early-morning darkness of Aug. 4, **Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 295th Infantry from Juncos, Puerto Rico**, actively participated in Operation Able Warrior, a coordinated operation to capture and seize suspected terrorist operators and triggermen of explosive devices in the southwest Baghdad area.

This mission was in response to recent attacks that had claimed the lives of eight Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 48th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. Three additional brigade Soldiers were killed just before the start of this mission, creating a deeper emphasis for mission success.

This coordinated mission was conducted by 2nd Bn. to reduce the threat from improvised explosive device operators and take the fight to them.

Even in the dark of the early morning, these Soldiers from Puerto Rico are dedicated to the cause and are anxious to get to this mission.

The Soldiers from Co. C have a strong bond with each other and with their fellow Soldiers in the 48th. The company joined the brigade in March and prepared for this deployment as a unit within the 2nd Battalion.

On Aug. 4, the unit moved into position with lightning speed around the various houses and working quickly, the Soldiers began to move throughout the residences, looking for suspects, suspected weapons and bomb-making materials. Even "Staff Sgt. Rambo," a military-trained bomb-sniffing dog was on hand to search for materials.

"The mission would not have been conducted as well as it was if we were not trained as well as we are," said **Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perez**, 42, from Aborito.

"The men did a great job" said **Capt. Jose Lopez-Molina**, 48, from Caguas, and Co. C commander, as he effortlessly switched between Spanish and English while talking with his Soldiers and to battalion headquarters.

As each house was

searched, Soldiers could be heard speaking in Spanish and English. With the help from interpreters who would speak in Arabic to question the local residents, Soldiers began to gather all the detainees together for transport to the battalion area for additional questioning.

Many of the houses were vacant of males, but the women and children found in the houses were asked to move to a designated area, as Soldiers moved from room to room. Many of the women and children told the Soldiers that some of their men had not been seen for quite a while. At one house, an elderly Iraqi man was treated by a unit medic for dizziness.

"We got good information from the detainees," said Perez.

The mission came to a successful close at dawn as all the 2nd Bn. units rolled back into Camp Striker, their trucks loaded with detainees.

As detainees were processed, many of the leaders, though obviously tired from the long night's work, took time to laugh and discuss more relaxing subjects other than the mission.

More than 60 detainees were collected from the various battalion-level objectives—16 of those seized by Co. C. "It was good for us to come together to get all these detainees," said **1st Lt. Eduardo Roman**, 1st platoon leader, Co. C, 32, from Salinas.

"This came off as a picture-perfect mission. Everything went well and all of our Soldiers are back inside the wire safe and sound. It was a good operation," said Lt. Col. Steve McCorkle, 2nd Bn. commander.



Maj. Carmelo Crespo Aguado, from Arecibo, assigned as operations logistics plans officer, 18th Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC, is serving a tour in Iraq since January 05.

Caguas Combat Corporal graduates from leadership course

by Danny McCormick
2d FSSG (FWD) PAO

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq (Dec. 11, 2005) – More than 30 Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) graduated Corporal's Course class 01-06 here Dec. 10. A Caguas native was among the graduates.

This two-week course consisted of extensive training to better prepare Marines as non-commissioned officers and future leaders of the Corps.

The course consisted of marching drill, physical fitness tests, leadership classes, tactical scenarios and more in order to help guide the Marines, said course graduate **Lance Cpl. Edgar Villafañe**, a Cagueño who serves as administrative clerk and course graduate.

"Being around all the corporals from different companies was motivating," said Villafañe. "It taught us to make sure our Marines are taken care of and our peers as well."

Many of the Marines felt the most difficult part was balancing their schedule, and that it brought the best out of their character.

"The time management was the hardest part," Villafañe added. "You always needed to prepare for every class and test."

According to the leaders of the battalion this training is vital to molding future leaders of the Marine Corps.

Aguada native, a mechanic with the 48th Brigade

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — Mechanics from 48th Brigade Combat Team lift off the cab of the Heavy Equipment Transporter Tractor, revealing an engine that needed to be replaced. **Spec. Ignacio Méndez**, from Aguada, serves in the 48th Bde. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Bill, 48th Brigade Combat Team PAO)



Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion 295th Infantry from Juncos, Puerto Rico search a room during Operation Able Warrior Aug. 4.

ASAP reminder:

This season, if you catch a buzz, catch a ride

By: Myrna M. Llanos,
ASAP Education Coordinator

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve is one of the busiest on Puerto Rico's roadways and also one of the most dangerous, due to a high incidence of alcohol-related traffic crashes.

That's why the Ft. Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program is joining with other national, state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to remind everyone this holiday season to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends, and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately also a time when we see a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's. That's why we are out early reminding everyone this holiday season, if you catch a buzz, catch a ride.



Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes during 2003. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), about three in every ten Americans will be involved

in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives. Designating a sober driver before the party begins is just one of several

simple steps to remember to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

These are other simple reminders for a safer holiday season:

**** Don't even think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you've been out drinking;**

**** If you are impaired, call a taxi – use mass transit – or get a sober friend or family member to come and get you;**

**** Or just stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;**

**** If you are hosting a party this holiday season, remind your guests to plan ahead, always offer alcohol-free beverages during the event, and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.**

**** And remember – Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.**

Since 1981, every President of the United States has proclaimed December "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month" to help underscore the public's commitment to preventing impaired driving and promoting the use of designated drivers and sober ride programs. The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday are also often highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season.

ASAP wishes you a HAP-
PY and SAFE HOLIDAY
SEASON

El Morro
December 2005

13



The Commander's number one performance measure is Customer Satisfaction. The Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system is the primary means of gauging how well the installation does in satisfying the requirements of its internal and external customers and provides the means for managers to follow-up on customer comments. This is undoubtedly a valuable tool designed to help us better serve our customers. Please log onto ICE today on any computer with internet connectivity and tell us what you think of any of our services across the installation. You can access ICE by logging onto the Fort Buchanan website at <http://www.buchanan.army.mil/first.htm> and clicking on ICE or go directly to ICE at <http://ice.disa.mil/>

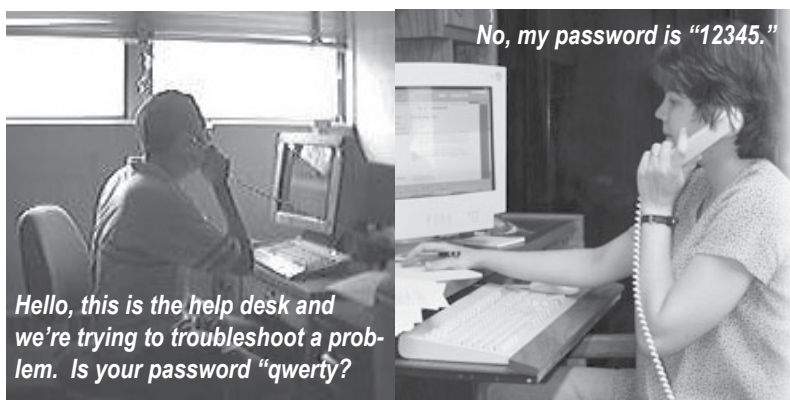
Here are some of our customer's comments and responses.

CUSTOMER COMMENT: I am requesting that once a month when the commissary is fully stocked that the active duty soldiers and there dependants have the opportunity to shop. I suggest setting aside a three to four hour period where we can do our grocery shopping. Without people who don't belong there being signed in and purchasing items in bulk so when soldiers like myself who is a single parent go into the commissary I can't even find items such as sugar, milk, chicken or even ground beef. I think this very unfair to me as well as all full time soldiers and hope that you will consider my suggestion.

COMMISSARY RESPONDS: Thank you, for taking the time to write and share your concerns. That you can't find product you are looking for is extremely disappointing to us as well. I can assure you that the problem is not the shopping hours but instead, a challenging ever-changing environment requiring us to meet our patron demands. We continue to address our stock levels and strive to assure continued availability of product. With our current lead-time of three weeks, to receive what we order, you can imagine that we do not always get it right, just mostly! At this time the Department of Defense, Defense Commissary Agency makes no provisions to set aside time for shoppers unless disabled or in uniform. Certainly we recognize those special needs. Thanks again for your suggestions. The Fort Buchanan commissary will continue to pursue improvements at all levels. Thanks again

CUSTOMER COMMENT: Sir; I am Active Duty, I was on leave at this facility, the day I went with my family it was full with civilians from a Bowling League, bowling shows size 10 were not available. I am concerned on the misuse of MWR facilities for the use of Military Active, Reserve or Retired. I addition, an issue of Force Protection in which I do not believe a background investigation has been done on those civilian patrons which can be a potential threat to military installations. Recommend the facilities be restricted to ID Card holder patrons, in addition, guest need to be signed by the ID Card holder. Also, there should be a distinction in charges, It is unbelievable that a Service Member has to pay equal as a civilian. If I go bowling of post, I do not receive a discount I have to pay like any other person. I am personally insulted as a War Veteran in three different theaters

Network advisory: The art of deception



Seems too simple, but it works! NEVER give your password to anybody. Protect your information from eavesdropping and over-the-shoulder surfing. AWARENESS is the key to SECURITY. Don't become your own worst enemy.

Continued next page ...



Christmas services at the Post Chapel

Collective Protestant Services

Children's Celebration of Christmas – Saturday 24 Dec – 4:00pm

Candlelight Service – Saturday 24 December – 7:00pm. An "agape" follows at the Chapel Annex

Sunday 25 December
– Christmas Worship Service - 10:30am
New Year's Eve Worship – Saturday 31 December 2005 - 7:00pm

New Year's Day Worship – Sunday 1 January 2006 - 10:30am

Roman Catholic Services

Aguinaldo Mass – Friday 16 December - 5:00am
Confessions - Monday 19 December - 6:00pm
Christmas Midnight Mass – Saturday 24 December - 12:00 mn

Attention cell phone slaves



Vehicle operators on a DoD Installation and operators of Government owned vehicles SHALL NOT USE CELL-PHONES unless the vehicle is safely parked or unless they are using a hands-free device. The wearing of any other portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices (except for hand-free cellular phones) while operating a motor vehicle is PROHIBITED.

Viruses cause terminal illness!

A computer virus affects your PC system in much the same way as a virus affects your body. Computer viruses can attack in many ways and are a favorite tool of hackers. They can be planted in graphics, attached to e-mail messages, or can be stored in disks.



Your DOIM PC gurus have a few words of advice:

** Have appropriate anti-virus software installed on your PC. ** Don't open e-mails that you don't recognize. ** Don't download files from the Internet or elsewhere unless properly scanned.



Fort Buchanan Army Career & Alumni Program

ACAP TAP Workshop

9, 10, 11 & 12 January 2006
at the Fort Buchanan Training Center,
Bldg. 511

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) seminars provide information that facilitates moving from the military to the civilian world.

If you are within two years of retirement or one year to ETS, contact Mr. Griffin at the ACAP Office to reserve your seats:

787-707-3681



Eyes ... from previous page

of operations to be displaced by merely financial interest of your administration.

MWR RESPONDS: Thank you for taking the time to give us feedback on our programs. I appreciate your concern with force protection issues but let me assure you that all non-affiliated members using MWR facilities go through background checks before authorization is given to participate in our programs. The process is identical to what our civilian workforce is required to do before acceptance of employment in our facilities. Your issue with shoes is a valid concern. We ordered new shoes in June but unfortunately they were delivered to the Dominican Republic. UPS is currently in the process of tracking them down with the assistance of the Brunswick dealer. We are expecting the delivery of the shoes any day now and we apologize for the inconvenience this has caused you. Our pricing is currently under review and you are correct; our Service Members and their families should not be expected to pay the same price as those who are not associated with the military. Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to give us constructive feedback. It is customers like you who facilitate change by pointing out areas of concern. "We are Serving you....Because you are Protecting Us" "Soldiers First....Quality Programs & Services Always"

CUSTOMER COMMENT: As a resident of Ft. Buchanan I visit the commissary several times a week. On Monday Nov 21st I took my sick neighbors teenage daughter with me to shop. She was one person ahead of me at the cashier and took her groceries to the car before I paid. She paid with her ATM card. As I was checking out the young adult who took her groceries to the car entered talking about how stingy the people were and using foul language to describe my neighbor's daughter. At the time I had the tip for this person inside of my purse but after hearing the vulgar comments he made did not give him a tip at all. This is not the first time I have experienced bad attitudes with baggers at the commissary. I believe there is a code of conduct for work and should be used when attending families.

COMMISSARY RESPONDS: Thank You, for sharing your concern. The baggers at the commissary do not work for the commissary, but as you know they are bound by rules of conduct. The experience that you have described is unacceptable, this type of behavior, and language will not be tolerated in this commissary. Whereas the baggers do indeed work for tips, their compensation is based on performance, it is at the discretion of the patron to tip or not to, and how much. Most of the baggers are professional and they do not make comments such as you described, but if you or anyone for that matter has an experience like this, with any employee or a bagger, please bring this to the attention of the customer service manager or any of the managers on duty. We at the commissary are committed to best serve the customers, I am sorry about your experience and I will take measures to ensure that this type of behavior on ceases. Thank You again for your continued patronage.

Let's bowl!! ... soon

Due to a renovation, the bowling lanes will remain closed until december 27. The Bowling center Snack bar, remains OPEN for lunch, Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 2 pm.





Caribbean Scoop

a taste of events to come...

Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico • January 2006
visit us on the internet at www.buchanan.army.mil/mwr

•• GOLF COURSE COMPLEX ••

~**The Bunker Bar** • a cozy alternative to loud rowdy, sports bars. Watch for up details

~**Free Golf Clinics - Limited Registration**

Sat, January 14 • Children 6 - 12 / 12 - 1 pm • Adults 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Register in advance, call today!

~**Month End Scramble**

Fri, January 27 • 12 noon, Register at the ProShop. Fee: \$25 members, \$35 guests. Cost includes carts, greens fee, prizes and hors d'oeuvres.

For details call the Golf Course Complex at 787-707-3980, or visit our facilities.

•• ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE ••

~**Family Advocacy Program**

Victim Advocate Service

We provide support for victims of spouse, child abuse and sexual assault.

Ways to Deal with Stress & Anger

Tue, 3 & 17 Jan, 10 am - 12 pm at ACS Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

Parenting Class

Wed, 4, 11, 18 & 25 Jan & Mon, 30 Jan, 10 am - 12 pm at ACS Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

New Parent Support, Morning Playgroup

Thu, 12 & 26 Jan, 10 am - 12 pm at ACS Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

Teen Support Group

Themes: Peer Pressure/Emotional Abuse

Tue, 17 Jan, 3-4:30 pm at ACS Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

Please call FAP Educator, Ms. Carmen Rivera at

787-707-3698 for classes; for additional FAP

program related information call Ms. Wilda Díaz at 787-707-3709 or wilda.diaz@us.army.mil.

~**Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program**

For military personnel only.

• Awareness Trainings

• Response to victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For information please call Ms. Wilda Díaz at 787-707-3709 or wilda.diaz@us.army.mil. Emergency line 787-406-4222

~**Relocation Readiness Program**

Native Puerto Rican Cooking Class

For Volunteers and the Community. Tuesday, 10 January, 10 am - 1 pm at ACS Conference Room, Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

Farmer's Market Trip

Thursday, 12 January, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Via public transportation.

Returning Stateside Smooth Move Orientation

Tuesday, 17 January, 2 - 3 pm at ACS Conference Room, Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights.

Newcomers' Information Fair & Tour

Thursday, 26 January, 7:30 am - 2 pm. An introduction to the installation's activities from 7:30 - 8:30 am at the Community Club & Conference Center, followed by a bus tour at 8:30 am to El Morro and Old San Juan. Returning approximately at 1:30 pm. Tour is free except for the cost of your lunch. For information please call Ms. Lucca at 787-707-3682 or wilda.diaz@us.army.mil.

Emergency line 787-406-4222.

~**Employment Readiness**

The ACS Employment Readiness Program (ERP) provides career counseling to Soldiers, Army spouses, civilian employees, retirees, and family members. For more information visit the ERP Office located at Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights or call Ms. Dávila at 787-707-3342/3365.

~**Exceptional Family Member Program**

Special Needs Resource Group Meeting

Wednesday, 4 January, 1:30 - 3:30 pm at ACS, Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights. For more details call Raymond Morales at 787-707-3295.

~**Army Family Team Building**

AFTB Level II (in English)

24 - 26 January, 8 am - 2 pm at ACS, Bldg. 1019, Buchanan Heights. For details call 787-707-3290.

~**Financial Readiness Program**

Financial Classes:

Debt Management Training

Thursday, 19 January. How to identify if you have more debt than you can afford..

Principles of Personnel Finance

Thursday, 26 November. Handling personnel finance correctly.

10 - 11:30 am, classes held at ACS Bldg. 1019-D. Please call Arlene Romero at 787-707-3310 to reserve.

~**Soldier & Family Life Consultants**

The Soldier and Family Life Consultant's role is to help you with your daily living situations related to being part of the Army Community. We offer you help and support with issues such as: separation from your loved ones, personal relationships, adjustments to new situations and family concerns, among others. Services are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. For more information or for a consultation, please call:

Your Soldier and Family Life Consultants:

• Nina Martínez- 787- 685-3423

Mondays thru Thursdays, 9 am - 5 pm

• Vanessa Villafañe- 787-685-3425

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am - 5 pm

• Norma Acevedo- 787-685-3426

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 am - 5 pm

COMMUNITY CLUB & CONFERENCE CENTER

BREAKFAST

Monday - Friday • 7 - 9 am.
\$5 per person

DAILY LUNCHES

Tuesday - Friday • 11 am - 2 pm
• Buffet Style \$5.50 per person
• Sandwich, Soup n' Salad \$5.25
• Taco Bar \$5.50
• Potato Bar \$3.50

DISCO NOW OPEN!

Thursday • 4-10 pm
Friday • 4 pm - 12 midnight
Saturdays • 4 pm - 1 am.
Admission \$5, ladies free before 9 pm.

FOR INFO CALL 787-707-3535 XT 200

UPCOMING FITNESS & SPORTS EVENTS

• **1.5 Hours Step Aerobics** – Monday, 9 January, 6:30 pm at the Fit. Ctr, Bldg. 167.

• **Adults Basketball League Coaches Meeting**
Tuesday, 10 January, 3 pm at the Fitness Center, Bldg. 167. **League Starts** on Tuesday, 17 January at 6:45 pm at the Fitness Center.

• **Practice for "World's Best 10k Run" and the "Army Ten Miler" Run**
Tuesday, 17 January, 5:30 am.

• **1.5 Hours Early Morning Cycling**

Start your day with this energizing work-out! Tuesday, 17 January • 5:15 - 6:45 am at the Fitness Center, Bldg. 167.

• **2 Hour Indoor Cycling Event**

This indoor cycling event intends to challenge participants in endurance. Saturday, 21 January, 10 am at the Fitness Center, Bldg. 167.

FOR MORE INFO CALL:

SPORTS OFFICE AT 787-707-3277 or FITNESS CENTER AT 787-707-3767

Happy holidays!!!

Buchanan celebrates the season

iParranda!

As part of the holiday celebrations around the post, the Command group formed a trulla and gave parrandas as they went around judging the office decorations. (see related information on page 5.) Here, some scenes from the merry-makers visits.



And a unique Christmas concert

By: Melissa Zayas

On December 6 at Antilles elementary School, the ACSS Brass Quintet plus One offered a unique concert titled Santa's Musical Box. Students from Pre-K through second grade attended. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves played traditional Christmas music. Music teachers from Ramey School and Antilles were the performers. The children had fun by singing along Christmas carols.



Mrs. Claus (Dr. Carol Mowen) sang traditional carols



The ACSS Brass Quintet Plus One: (Left to right) Dr. Gregg Mowen (ACSS Assistant Superintendent), Dr. Carol Mowen (AIS Music Teacher), Mr. Rafael Sosa (AHS Music Teacher), Dr. Waldo Sanabria (Ramey School Music Teacher), Mr. Harry Hamilton (AHS Music Teacher), Dr. Erick Swanson (Ramey School Principal)